

Loggers Hope for Cool Summer as Season Opens

The axe has been hoisted and log trucks are rolling into the mill signaling the beginning of the reservation's 1977 logging season.

And this season, loggers, forestry officials, and WSFPI personnel are looking with caution at this year's dry situation and forecasts of extreme fire danger due to drought conditions this summer. Already, 16 acres have burned in the Sidwalter fire May 19th.

But so far, everything is proceeding in a fairly normal pattern. Logging started on schedule April 18th, and when enough had been decked hauling began on May 2nd.

"A month or so ago, we thought it was going to be a lot worse than it is," said Larry Whalawitsa, Fire Control Officer. "But this rainy spell and recent cool weather has helped out a lot," he said, referring to a lessening of fire danger for now.

"But because of the drought situation, the concern for fire is stronger than in the past," says WSFPI logging manager Hank Palmer, though he foresees no really serious problem until later in the season -- from July to October.

Palmer has incorporated a number of alternatives into his logging plan to cope with possible fire related problems during the later part of the sea-

son. In fact his whole logging plan for this year has been laid out with the drought in mind.

This year logging outfits will be concentrated more in one segment so that in case of fire loggers will be in one general area rather than spread out all over the reservation.

Basically, all logging will be done north of Shitike Creek and west of Highway 26 this year. Sale areas for the season are: He He Sale, Cedar Creek, Windy Ridge, Owl Springs, Boulder Canyon, Willow Springs, Coyote Creek, and some salvage sales.

Palmer said that he and his crew are stressing that all outfits make sure their equipment is updated and that everyone be trained to use the fire equipment.

Should a major forest fire break out on the reservation it would have a tremendous economic impact upon the tribes. The last sizeable blaze on the reservation was "The Seekseequa Burn" in 1968 which claimed 1,962 acres.

The impact of the major forest fire could be measured in terms of long range loss of jobs, loss of revenue for loggers, haulers, and the mill, and it would represent a valuable resource loss to the Confederated Tribes.

Palmer explained that in a



The scales are the first step when a log truck enters the mill. Most loads weigh about 80,000 pounds.

Sandy Rangila Photo

forest fire, even if a tree doesn't burn, it's dead anyway because of the heat damage. In addition, he said that it costs a lot more to log a burned area -- it costs more per tree since there are fewer in the area.

A major burn could spell other kinds of trouble for the mill and the economy of the reservation. Logging season is the time when materials necessary to keep WSFPI going

during the winter are brought in. Should a fire force a lengthy shutdown, the results could be felt months later.

"We feel confident each year that we'll get enough sawable material for the sawmill, but the hassle from year to year is to get enough peelable material in here," said Palmer. If we don't, we'd have to shut down the veneer side of our operation, and there are a

lot of guys who work in the veneer area," he observed.

But with proper precautions and some cooperation from the weather, Palmer sees no reason why this logging season shouldn't be a success. "Our alternatives are numerous and can be combined to meet any situation, so we'll just play it by ear and see what develops.



Pixie Sanders and Tammi Smith romped with a couple of puppies after winning second prize in the Humane Associations naming contest. The Simnasho girls suggested "High Prairie" and won a ribbon and \$3.00 a piece for their efforts. Chief Humane Investigator Chuck McKay reported that the "Open Door Humane Association" was named by fifth grader Sue Hansen of Madras.

CDS Photo

Indian Court Systems Studied

Regina Superneau and William Meredith of Washington, D.C. were here to meet with the various groups from the Municipal Branch of the Confederated Tribes. The purpose of the meeting was conducted as a survey by the two from D.C., as there are several teams of this type throughout the country visiting various reservations mainly pertaining to Law-and-Order and Tribal Courts.

This study is taking place

throughout the country at about 20 different Indian Reservations, the information obtained from meetings such as this will be essential in preparing a report which assesses the strength and weakness of Tribal Courts, recommends model standards for Tribal Courts throughout the country and suggests to the Bureau of Indian Affairs a five-year plan of support of Indian Courts system.

During the evening session

Dennis Karnopp, Tribal Attorney spoke on Public Law 280, the Retrocession Movement, and the Indian Civil Rights act of 1968.

The meeting continued through May 13th. Olney Patt Sr. of the Probate Department was the M.C., others who participated were from the Tribal Court, Police Department both Tribal and B.I.A., Officers as well as other BIA personnel, and the Jefferson County Judge Herschel Read.



"Does the leaf look more like a kite or a duck's feet?" Extension Agent Clint Jacks helps 4th grade students Jason Smith (left) and Anthony Davis examine a bitterbrush in one of the five outdoor classes held at He He Butte May 20. Students from all over the district also learned about geology, forestry, river life, wildlife and even visited the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. Local BIA, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Extension experts led the classes.

CDS Photo